

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-19 remain in the application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that the Title of the Invention is not descriptive. A new Title is submitted with the present amendment.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Croy (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,825) and further in view of Yamanaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,226). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 have been amended to better illustrate the already existing distinctions over the cited art. For example, claim 1 calls for:

selecting, at a given one of the plurality of control devices, a *specific one of a plurality of controlled hardware portions* of the information processing apparatus to be controlled by the given one of the plurality of control devices;

transmitting, from the given one of the plurality of control devices to the information processing apparatus over the network, an *identification number corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions* and identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices;

storing, in a control correspondence table of the information processing apparatus, the *identification number corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions* and the identification information corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices *that were transmitted by the given one of the plurality of control devices* such that the identification number corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions is associated with the identification information

corresponding to the given one of the plurality of control devices; [and]

*repeating said selecting step, said transmitting step and said storing step using a further one of the plurality of control devices and a further one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions to associate the identification information corresponding to the further one of the plurality of control devices with the identification number corresponding to the further one of the plurality of controlled hardware portions[.]*  
(Emphasis added.)

Though the Examiner acknowledges that Croy does not disclose or suggest the claimed transmitting, storing, and repeating steps set out above, the Examiner contends that Yamanaka does. Yamanaka, however, describes remote controllers that transmit operation signals to a signal reception unit. The operation signals specify an event that is selected by a user and which cause an associated image to be displayed on a display unit and an associated tone to be generated by an audio output unit. (See, e.g., col.11 ll.21-63). The remote controllers do not select a particular hardware device that is to be controlled. Therefore, Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest the selecting step of claim 1 that is recited above.

Moreover, Yamanaka describes that the operation signals specify an event. The patent does not disclose or suggest that the remote controller transmits an identification number, and the patent does not disclose or suggest that the identification number corresponds to a selected controlled hardware portion. Therefore, Yamanaka neither discloses nor suggests the transmitting step set out in claim 1.

Also, though Yamanaka describes that the signal reception unit (i) receives a transport stream which includes various navigation information sequences, (ii) separates a navigation information sequence from the transport when a

remote controller is operated by a user, and (iii) stores the relationships the navigation information sequence and the operation carried out on the remote controller, the transport stream is *transmitted by a broadcast station* rather than by the remote controller. Therefore, Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest storing identification numbers corresponding to a *selected controlled hardware portion*, for the reasons described above, and does not disclose or suggest storing such information *transmitted by a control device*. It follows that Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest the claimed storing step that is recited above.

Additionally, because Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest the claimed selecting, transmitting, and storing steps, Yamanaka neither discloses nor suggests repeating such steps.

Therefore, neither Croy nor Yamanaka, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the method set out above in claim 1, and claim 1 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Independent claim 10 defines an information processing apparatus that includes a receiver and a storage unit having limitations similar to those defined above in claim 1, and independent claim 11 defines a system that includes an information device similar to that defined in claim 10. Therefore, each of claims 10 and 11 are patentably distinguishable over Croy and Yamanaka for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2, and 4-9 depend from claim 1, claims 13-18 depend from claim 10, and claim 19 depends from claim 11. Therefore, each of these claims is distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as the claim from which it depends.

The Examiner also rejected claims 3 and 12 under

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Croy in view of Yamanaka and further in view of Humpleman (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,971).

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and claim 12 depends from claim 10. Therefore, each of claims 3 and 12 are distinguishable over Croy and Yamanaka for at least the same reasons.

Humpleman does not cure the deficiencies of Croy and Yamanaka.

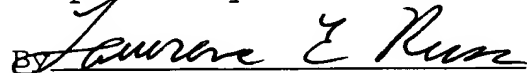
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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